Amount spent on oil requirements

707. SHRI JANARDHNA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rising oil prices is having immense revenue implication for Government;

(b) if so, the amount spent on meeting the oil requirements of the country during the last five years; and

(c) what measures are taken to develop alternative sources of energy, including solar energy, and the amount spent on R and D in this regard during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The amount spent on purchase of crude oil during the last five years is as under:

Rs./crore

Year	Net Import Bill	% growth over previous year
2000-01	70,358	
2001-02	59,361	-15.6
2002-03	74,174	25.0
2003-04	76,387	3.0
2004-05	91,486	32.1

(c) An amount of around Rs. 5816 crores has been spent on sponsored R&D project activities of the Ministry of Non-Convention Energy Sources, Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) of the Ministry and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) R&D. These projects include research and development in the field of wind, solar, small hydro, biomass, ethanol blending in petrol, biodiesel and hydrogen.

Allocation of kerosene to Andhra Pradesh

708. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had been requested by Andhra

Pradesh Government for additional allotment of 20,000 KL of kerosene per month to meet the requirement of the additional BPL card-holders;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to release additional allotment of 20,000 KL of kerosene per month immediately, in the interest of additional BPL card-holders; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKARAIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) This Ministry has received representations from various State Government/Union Territories, including the Government of Andhra Pradesh, for the enhancement of their SKO quota.

PDS kerosene has been allocated to States/UTs on a historical basis. In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) was reduced everyyear beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/Union Territory. While the initial allotment for 2004-05 was based on the criteria adopted hitherto, additional allocations were made during the year to meet urgent emergent demand. For the year 2005-06, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year.

With a view to assessing the genuine demand of kerosene in different States/UTs, in December 2004, the Government commissioned the first-ever comprehensive study of the subject through the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), NCAER have submitted their report in October, 2005. It is being examined with a view to rationalizing the allocation of PDS kerosene amongst States/UTs.

Indian tourists visited South-East Asian countries

709. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indians travelling to South-East Asian countries were pampering much more;